The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 48, No. 12, December 2016

Carolina country



Award-Winning Tastes

ALSO INSIDE:

The Gift of Local Galleries

Reflections on Hurricane Matthew

Holiday Home Tours

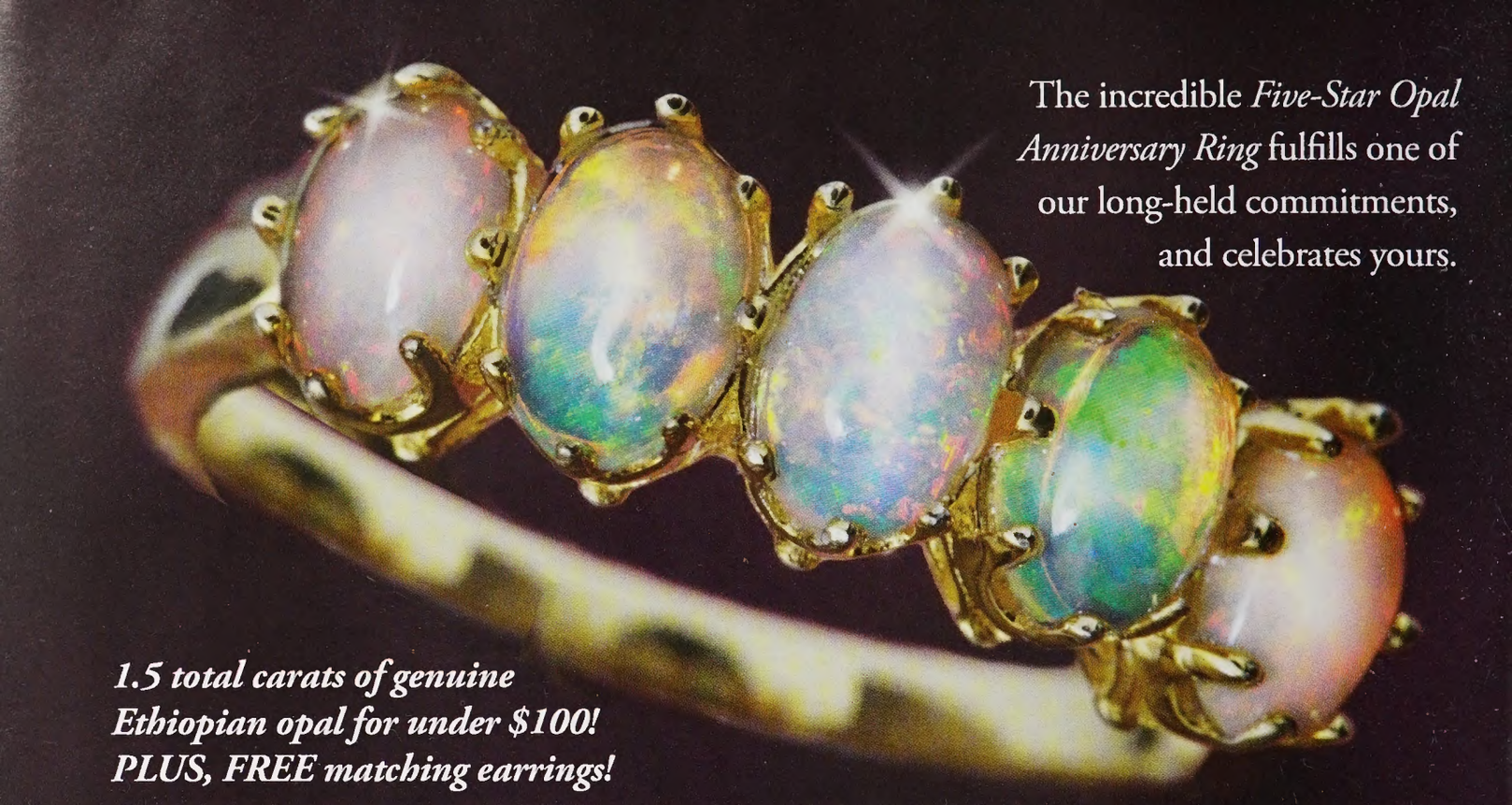
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

PERIODICAL

Festive events across the state—page 24



The incredible *Five-Star Opal Anniversary Ring* fulfills one of our long-held commitments, and celebrates yours.

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— Gemological Institute of America

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Farmer's Daughter Brand owner April McGregor carries on a family tradition of preserving. Read about the fruits of her labor and others around the state on page 10.





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Why Do We Send You Carolina Country Magazine?
Your cooperative sends you Carolina Country as a convenient, economical way to share with its members information about services, director elections, meetings and management decisions. The magazine also carries legal notices that otherwise would be published in other media at greater cost.

Your co-op's board of directors authorizes a subscription to Carolina Country on behalf of the membership at a cost of less than $5 per year.

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Where 2016 Has Brought Us



By Nelle Hotchkiss

I enjoy this time of year in North Carolina. The holidays bring family together, the heat of the summer is well behind us, and the hard cold of winter has yet to really settle in. It's also a nice time to look back and reflect on the past year. For North Carolina's electric cooperatives, it's been a busy 12 months.

For one, new technology continues to open up new opportunities for electric co-ops and our members. Technology is changing the way people think about energy. Appliances are getting more energy efficient. Thermostats are getting "smarter" and can be controlled through your "smart" phone. And renewable energy options and storage technology are becoming more attainable.

> Putting the latest technology to work for you is important, but co-ops also have been focused on improving the communities where we live and work.

For most, it can be hard to separate the hype from what can actually save money in the long run. But electric co-ops navigate this changing landscape every day, and over the past year we've continued to find innovative options that provide our members the most "bang for their buck," and put technology to use.

One example is community solar, where co-op members can buy a share of a solar project in exchange for a credit on their monthly bill. Electric co-ops currently have 18 of these projects either operational or underway across North Carolina. We're also deploying microgrid and energy storage pilot projects in some parts of the state, testing their ability to improve reliability while controlling costs. (See "More Power to You," page 8, for an overview of co-op innovation and engagement.)

Putting the latest technology to work for you is important, but co-ops also have been focused on improving the communities where we live and work. During 2016, we continued to stand out as a national leader in our use of loans and grants provided through U.S. Department of Agriculture rural economic development programs. Through the programs, electric co-ops are assisting localities to fund projects that create and retain jobs in our communities. To this end, we've brought more than $8 million into the state this year in support of community service, education and industrial projects.

We were also proud to send 39 North Carolina high school students to Washington, D.C., this summer as part of the annual Youth Tour program. These students are the future leaders of our communities, and the Youth Tour gives them the opportunity to meet their legislators and see our federal governments in action.

And of course, in 2016 we remained committed to keeping your lights on. Although Mother Nature didn't always cooperate, we relied on our expertise and, when need be, on our fellow electric co-ops to recover from severe storms and widespread outages. The year brought ice and wind storms, a tropical storm and a hurricane, but our crews worked tirelessly around the clock until all power was restored.

These are just a few of our accomplishments from 2016. Although there were some challenging times, it was a great year for North Carolina's electric cooperatives and our members, and I'm looking forward to what 2017 will bring.

Nelle Hotchkiss is senior vice president of Corporate Relations for the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.



Everybody's Day

I was stunned when I read about the Everybody's Day Parade ("I Remember," November 2016, page 20). Included in the picture is my great aunt and great uncle, Callie Blair and Grady Leach! My grandmother, Hattie Tomlinson Millis, was their half-sister. Awesome picture!

Rosemary Palmer Berry, Fayetteville

A Thanks for Albemarle EMC

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate the service you provide for all your customers.

We moved on what used to be the Nine-Foot Brick Road before electricity came here. We used to pump water and used a washboard to wash clothes, used kerosene lamps to see and read by.

It was a happy day when you all brought the lines to our home. That road is Foreman Bundy Road now. Two of our sons live on that road.

Your linemen are the best. Not very many times have we been without lights. Thank you.

Thanks again for the service you provide for your customers. Keep up the good work.

God bless all of you and keep your workers safe.

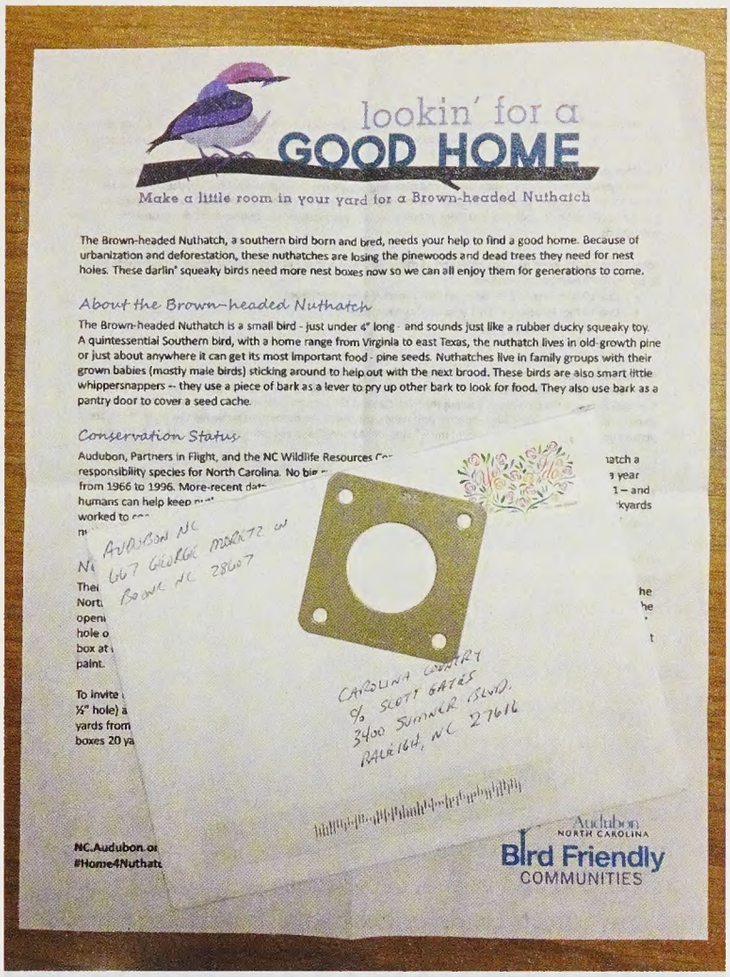
Stella W. Jemigan, Elizabeth City, a member of Albemarle EMC

Winter Rotation

My wife and I have been with EnergyUnited for some time, and I have a question about air circulation in the home. We have ceiling "in" vents and low returns on the first floor. Second floor has floor "in" vents and high returns. What is the proper rotation of fans (clockwise or counter-clockwise) during winter and summer? Thank you for your service and magazine.

Peter & Gracie Young, Huntersville, members of EnergyUnited

Editor's Note: EnergyUnited shared this tip from energystar.gov in response to Peter and Gracie's question: In the summer, use the ceiling fan in the counterclockwise direction. While standing directly under the ceiling fan you should feel a cool breeze. The airflow produced creates a wind-chill effect, making you "feel" cooler. In the winter, reverse the motor and operate the ceiling fan at low speed in the clockwise direction. This produces a gentle updraft, which forces warm air near the ceiling down into the occupied space. Remember to adjust your thermostat when using your ceiling fan—additional energy and dollar savings could be realized with this simple step! Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. If the room is unoccupied, turn off the ceiling fan to save energy.



Support a Local Nuthatch

We've received many calls from readers who would like to obtain the birdhouse retrofits mentioned in our August issue ("Sheltering Our Feathered Friends," August 2016, pages 16 & 17). Audubon North Carolina is offering the excluders for free—the small metal pieces fit over larger bird box holes to "reserve" the space for a Brown nuthatch in need.

Email nuthatch@audubon.org with your mailing address to request an excluder, or call Audubon NC at 828-265-0198.

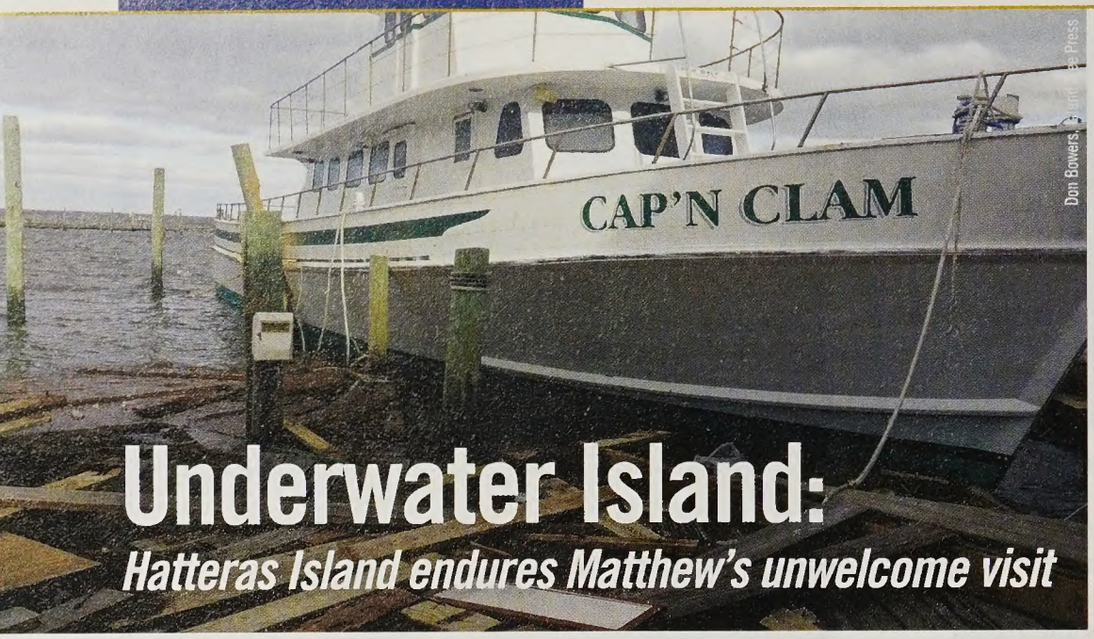
"Remember, it is OK to put up your boxes after nesting season," explains Audubon NC director of conservation Curtis Smalling. "This helps the birds locate nesting sites for next year and gives them the chance to roost in the boxes overnight throughout the year."

Tomato Waste Wattage

"Vine Ripe Fuel" (October 2016, page 8) mentioned that "10 milligrams of tomato waste results in only 0.3 watts of electricity." This is the equivalent of saying a gallon of gas got me 30 miles an hour. Instead of watts you need a unit of energy such as watt-seconds.

Bob Gailer, Hillsborough, a member of Piedmont Electric

Editor's Note: Thanks for pointing that out, Bob. The initial statement was missing an important element when measuring energy: Time. For clarification, we reached out to the lead author of the tomato waste study, Dr. Venkataramana Gadhamshetty at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. "A 12-ounce sized reactor fed with 3.5 milligrams of defective tomatoes can sustain 72 watt-hours of electricity over 10 days (0.3 watts x 240 hours = 72 watt-hours)."



Don Bowers, Island Free Press

Underwater Island:

Hatteras Island endures Matthew's unwelcome visit

By Casey Clabough

On the evening of October 8, Nick, a Hatteras village resident, stumbled about in a foot of water in his 1930s-built home. He had resolved to wait out Hurricane Matthew but water had begun coming in under the door that afternoon and now occupied the entire downstairs. He describes being in a state of shock, knowing it was not smart to be wading through rising water containing potentially harmful debris that could injure him. He wasn't even sure what he was looking for.

Something rectangular and pale floated near him. He adjusted the flashlight and fished it out of the dirty water. It was a Bible and the text was open to the book of Matthew. He scanned a few lines and, turning, headed for the front door.

He had taken the discovery of the book as a sign, and by morning his house would be filled with six feet of water.

Whatever one's opinion on symbols and signs, the hurricane's intentions struck Hatteras Island residents as almost humanly malevolent in its destructive work. Matthew's interaction with a cold front directly over eastern North Carolina on October 8 and 9 caused widespread and sometimes catastrophic flooding, mostly from heavy rains. With the hurricane's winds (and most of its danger) seemingly having passed over the island and out to sea, many residents breathed a collective sigh of relief. Yet that was only the beginning of the turmoil—an exhalation prior to a violent action.

The tailwinds on the back end of the storm went to work pulling the waters from the Pamlico Sound eastward over the island. As one resident remarked, "It was like the water was attacking the island."

On Sunday, October 9, water levels on the southern portion of the island reached seven feet in places: The highest mark on record even for structures built in the early twentieth century. According to Dare County, more than 100 homes were claimed lost and 4,500 damaged with the overall loss estimated at $52 million.

No strangers to hurricanes and tropical storms, islanders were quick to respond to the adversity. Both the Hatteras and Frisco fire departments were open within two days of the storm's wake, signing up volunteers and taking requests for assistance.

Two weeks after the early October flooding of Hatteras Island by Hurricane Matthew, on the shore's southern end—the section hit hardest by the storm—house debris, garbage, even trees and boats, lined the island's usually beautiful main thoroughfare, Route 12, for miles.

"Scenic now for all the wrong reasons," quipped one resident, pointing at a leaning state sign identifying the road as a North Carolina Scenic Byway.

Despite the devastation, residents have carried on as usual.

"Just another day in the tackle shop," commented the owner of the Red Drum in Buxton Village when asked about his challenges. He was standing inside his store in a foot of water when he responded.

"One thing we are is resilient," observed a resident. "When storms like this happen out here we're completely cut off. All we have is each other. And folks do a pretty good job of living up to that."

It's a teaching Saint Matthew would have been pleased to see in action.

In fact, back on the night of October 8, Nick's soggy Bible had opened to Chapter 5 in Matthew and the passage he claimed his flashlight fell upon was verse 42: "To him who asks of you, give; and from him who wants to borrow from you, do not turn away."

The North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund for Hurricane Matthew has been activated to support long-term recovery efforts in partnership with the United Way of North Carolina. People or organizations who want to help can visit NCdisasterrelief.org or text NCRecovers to 30306.



Jay Cahill, Island Free Press

(R–L) Jeff Dawson, owner of Fatty's restaurant in Buxton, cleans a storm drain with Canan Merillat and Sean Finneran.



Amazing New Hybrid Runs Without Gas

The new face of time? Stauer's Compendium Hybrid fuses form and functionality for UNDER $30! Read on...

Innovation is the path to the future. Stauer takes that seriously. That's why we developed the ***Compendium Hybrid***, a stunningly-designed hybrid chronograph with over one dozen analog and digital functions that is more versatile than any watch that we have ever engineered.

New technology usually starts out at astronomical prices and then comes down years later. We skipped that step to allow everyone the chance to experience this watch's brilliant fusion of technology and style. We originally priced the Stauer ***Compendium Hybrid*** at $395 based on the market for advanced sports watches... but then stopped ourselves. Since this is no ordinary economy, we decided to start at 92% off from day one. That means this new technological marvel can be yours for only $29.95!

Welcome a new Digital Revolution. With the release of the dynamic new ***Compendium***, those boxy, plastic wrist calculators of the past have been replaced by this luxurious LCD chronograph that is sophisticated enough for a formal evening out, but rugged and tough enough to feel at home in a cockpit, camping expedition or covert mission.

The watch's extraordinary dial seamlessly blends an analog watch face with a stylish digital display. Three super-bright luminous hands keep time along the inner dial, while a trio of circular LCD windows track the hour, minutes and seconds. An eye-catching digital semi-circle animates in time with the second hand and shows the day of the week. The watch also features a rotating bezel, stopwatch and alarm functions and green, electro-luminescence backlight. The ***Compendium Hybrid*** secures with a rugged stainless steel band and is water-resistant to 3 ATM.



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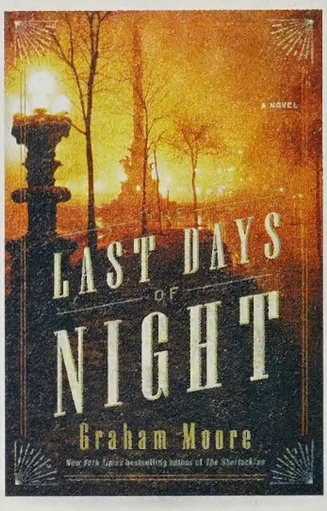
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BOOK REVIEW

An Electrifying Story



What if Thomas Edison was an evil genius? A man so desperate to protect his inventions that he would bribe the police (and worse) to show his electric systems were better than his competitors? You'd have what writers like me have always been searching for: A dramatic, can't-put-it-down story about electricity.

Graham Moore's new novel "The Last Days of Night" tells the based-on-fact story of the ultra-high stakes battle between Edison and George Westinghouse over nothing less than what kind of electricity would power the U.S.

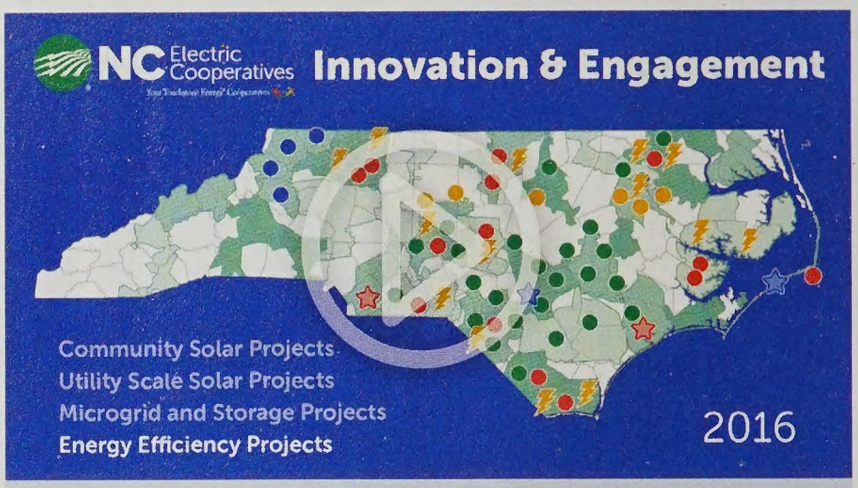
In the late 1800s, Edison was turning his invention of the light bulb into a network for electrifying the country, starting in New York City. The Westinghouse company had invented what it felt was a better light bulb, but the lawsuits claimed it was just a copy of Edison's.

The much bigger issue came with how the electricity would be delivered to those light bulbs. Edison's system used direct current (DC), which is what comes out of any battery you have in your home. Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla had developed alternating current (AC), so named because it actually changes direction about 60 times a second, as a more efficient way to deliver electricity over long distances. Alternating current won — AC is the kind of electricity found in your home today.

In the book, Moore (the Oscar-winning screenwriter for the 2014 movie "The Imitation Game") covers the complexities of generating and delivering electricity, but he does so with a sense of excitement.

The story ends on an intelligently positive note, making the point that invention and creation require a cast of talents. The book concludes with a tribute to all of the characters: "Only together could they have birthed the system that was now the bone and sinew of these United States. No one man could have done it. In order to produce such a wonder ... the world required ... Visionaries like Tesla. Craftsmen like Westinghouse. Salesmen like Edison."

—Paul Wesslund, for NRECA



Electric Co-op Innovation

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are leading the way with innovative energy projects to bring new opportunities to cooperative members and North Carolina communities. In recent years, electric co-ops across the state have deployed community- and utility-scale solar projects, microgrid and storage projects, and energy efficiency projects.

View a brief video of how these projects have rolled out at carolinacountry.com. Individually, these energy innovations are having a big impact in local communities — as a statewide network, electric co-ops are making a significant impact on North Carolina's energy future.

Small Businesses Get Support in Wake of Matthew

A group of small business support organizations have activated the North Carolina Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program in response to Hurricane Matthew. The program provides short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced physical or economic damage during the storm and recovery efforts.

The Bridge Loan Program is a partnership of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, the Small Business and Technology Development Center and the Community College Small Business Center Network.

"We have been gathering reports from eastern North Carolina about the impact the storm has had on families, businesses and farms," said Rural Center President Patrick Woodie. "Restoring small businesses and family farms is crucial to our recovery from Hurricane Matthew, and the Bridge Loan Program will provide critical assistance while applicants wait for insurance payouts, SBA disaster loans or other recovery programs."

For more information or to find a program office, visit sbtdc.org/hurricanematthew. For questions or assistance, call the SBTDC at (919) 715-7272.

Emergency Bridge Loan Program

Amount: Up to $15,000

Terms: 90 or 180 days with 0% APR for that time period

Deadline: Friday, December 9, 2016

Who is eligible: Owners of small businesses (1 to 100 employees) located in the 52 counties affected by Hurricane Matthew. Businesses must have been established prior to October 4, 2016, and demonstrate economic or physical damage as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

To apply: Visit ncruralcenter.org/hurricanematthew

Hurricane Matthew Brings Out the Best in Co-ops and Their Members



A Lumbee River EMC crew encountered this washed-out road while making repairs to its system.

North Carolina electric cooperative members began feeling the effects of Hurricane Matthew in the morning hours of Saturday, October 8. The storm ran on an unpredictable track and brought enormous amounts of rain to eastern parts of the state, triggering flooding long after the storm had passed. Outages to electric co-op members caused by Matthew extended from central North Carolina to southern, eastern and coastal communities, and peaked at 270,000 on Sunday morning.

"Co-op crews really banded together to get power restored as quickly as possible after the storm," said Mike Burnette, COO of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC). "Lineworkers and tree trimmers from affected co-ops were joined by nearly 270 workers from western North Carolina and Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. Crews worked night and day until all power was restored, despite having to navigate overwashed roads, fallen trees, debris and flooding."

Most importantly, electric co-op line crews had support from their communities and the members they serve. As co-op members cleaned up after the storm, they showed support for co-op crews using letters, cards, social media — even roadside signs.



A South River EMC crew restores power following Matthew.

Hurricane Matthew
N.C. Storm Stats

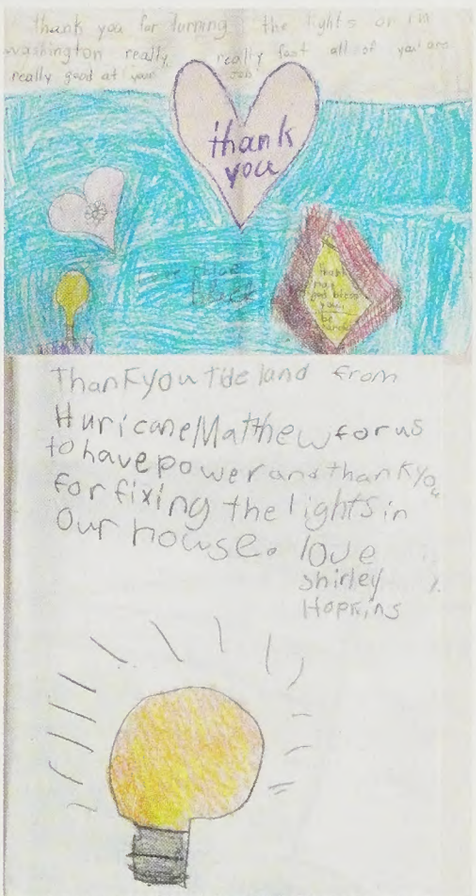
Top wind speed: 86 mph in Brunswick County

Rainfall totals: 18.38 inches of rain recorded in Elizabethtown; 14 to 16 inches in other coastal areas

Total N.C. co-op outages: 270,000

Neighboring co-op outages: 300,000 (S.C.); 100,000 (Ga.); 100,000 (Fla.)

Sources: NCEMC, The National Weather Service



Tideland EMC's younger members showed support with hand-drawn cards following the storm.



A Tideland EMC truck carries replacement poles to a worksite as storm clouds loom overhead.



Nicole DeCarlo

Gifts with Good Taste

These food gifts for the holidays are local and award-winning

By Leah Chester-Davis

North Carolina food artisans produce a bumper crop of specialty foods each year, something to please most any palate. Several of these food creations end up receiving impressive accolades at state, regional or national competitions. We're highlighting a few of the national winners as starting points for your gift-giving inspiration. Whether you're looking for a hostess gift or the perfect find for that hard-to-please person, specialty food items make gift-giving fun for the giver and the recipient. You just can't beat a gift with good taste!

CHOCOLATES, CONFECTIONS, SNACKS

Chocolate and confections never go out of style. The state has several winning bean-to-bar chocolate shops, meaning they start with the cacao beans. While cacao beans aren't a local food product, most of these companies are committed to fair-trade and organic beans when possible. The beans are turned into chocolate products in these shops in the state.

Brasstown Chocolate in Winston-Salem won a Good Food Award this year for one of its chocolate bars and was a finalist for two others. Brasstown also garnered top honors at the prestigious International Chocolate Awards. Their chocolate is available at their retail store in Winston-Salem and several other sites across the state. brasstownchocolate.com


Nicole DeCarlo

Escazú Artisan Chocolates

Escazú Artisan Chocolates, of Raleigh, also won a Good Food Award this year. They source organic beans from Costa Rica, Venezuela and Peru, and make and sell an evolving selection of bars, truffles and confections on-site in Raleigh. Gift baskets and online ordering are available. escazuchocolates.com

Videri Chocolate Factory, also in Raleigh, is a Good Food winner in the confections category with its Sugarplum Ganache Bonbon. Videri also offers a selection of chocolate and chocolate subscriptions. Any chocolate lover would welcome a monthly indulgence, and a chocolate subscription is sure to be a winning gift. Visit the factory or order online. viderichocolatefactory.com

French Broad Chocolates in Asheville captured a Good Food Award for its Hazelnut & Almond Dragee, a scrumptious sweet and salty snack. They also offer chocolate subscriptions. French Broad Chocolates are available statewide. frenchbroadchocolates.com

Creative Snacks Company in Greensboro bakes delectable snacks that are award-worthy. The company's Organic Coconut Snacks that combine coconut, chia, pumpkin and sunflower seeds won rave reviews at the Summer Fancy Food Show in New York, where it won a sofi award (Specialty Outstanding Food Innovation), securing top honors in the sweet snacks category. Creative Snacks Company products are sold in stores statewide. Tuck a few bags of these snacks into a gift basket with other North Carolina goodies. creativesnacks.com



PICKLES & PRESERVES

North Carolinians love pickles and relishes, which can accompany a wide range of dishes—from fish to barbecue. Jams, jellies and preserves are another popular gift in a jar. While the traditional fruit-flavored versions abound, for good reason, a couple of companies have gotten creative with their flavor combos and brought home Good Food Awards for them.

Two Chicks Farm, of Hillsborough, got its start when Audrey Lin and Debbie Donnald began selling produce at the Carrboro Farmers Market. In 2014, they transitioned to value-added products such as pickles, sauerkraut,

kimchi and pepper jellies. They grow most of the ingredients for their products or buy them from nearby local organic or sustainable farms. Two Chicks Farm (served by Piedmont Electric) took home the Good Food Award this year for its Dill Pickles, and several of their products have won in years past. Their line of products makes for a nice sampling for a gift basket so a recipient can enjoy all the winning products. twochicksfarm.com

Farmer's Daughter Brand, also of Hillsborough, (served by Piedmont Electric) has three products that were recognized in the pickles category: Ramp and Mustard Seed Kraut; Ruby Kraut; and Hot Chili Okra Pickles. Owner and creator April McGreger also won an award in the preserves category with Bourbon'd Figs, an unexpected combination of bourbon, figs, lemon and vanilla. Most of the ingredients in her products are grown on small, local farms. farmersdaughterbrand.com

Fiddlehead Farm, of Pittsboro, makes a wide variety of jams, jellies, preserves, hot sauces and baked goods in its certified kitchen. Their Blueberry and Cinnamon Basil Jam was a Good Food Awards finalist. Fiddlehead Farm labels include information on the farm, grower or source for each raw ingredient in the jar, and whether it's certified organic. Fiddlehead Farms products are at markets and stores in the Triangle and available online. fiddleheadnc.com


Lissa Gotwals

Farmer's Daughter Brand jam



Fiddlehead Farm

SEASONINGS

Some specialty foods products in the state offer a touch of the exotic, introducing flavors and ideas from other countries.

Kitchens of Africa was started by Jainaba Jeng when a military coup prevented her from returning to her home in Gambia, in western Africa. While sauces and spices to make international dishes from other countries like India, Thailand or Mexico are readily available, she couldn't find similar products for African cuisine. She introduced a line of flavorful and authentic African-inspired condiments that yield complex flavor combinations of some of her favorite traditional dishes. Yassa is an onion simmer sauce that she says is her favorite, and the one that her family and friends most often request. The sauce contains ginger, garlic, caramelized onions, fresh citrus, smoky paprika, Dijon mustard sauce and a blend of spices. kitchensofafrica.com

CHEESE

A growing number of cheesemakers and their high quality products are consistently recognized in competitions.

Goat Lady Dairy, of Climax in Randolph County, is the recipient of numerous awards through the years. This year, Goat Lady won both Good Food Awards and top honors in the 2016 American Cheese Society competition. Goat Lady Dairy makes several kinds of cheese and the ones winning accolades this year are Lindale, Providence, Roasted Red Pepper Chèvre and the Smokey Mountain Round. Goat Lady Dairy products are in stores statewide and beyond. goatladydairy.com


Goat Lady Dairy

Smokey Mountain Round from Goat Lady Dairy

Prodigal Farm, of northern Durham County, also makes several types of cheese. They were recognized with a Good Food Award this year for Field of Creams, a four-inch diameter cheese that looks like brie but is made differently. Woodland aromatics in the rind influence the flavor. prodigalfarm.com

Boxcarr Handmade Cheese, of Cedar Grove in Orange County, captured awards from the 2016 American Cheese Society competition for two of their cheeses: Rocket's Robiola, a goat's milk cheese that they describe as luscious and zingy with notes of almond and bright mushrooms, and Cottonseed, a mixed milk cheese. Their products are in stores statewide. boxcarrhandmadecheese.com

These artisans, farms and shops are just the tip of the iceberg, representing a small sampling of what the state has to offer. There are more than 3,000 small food businesses in the state, according to the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Visit gottobenc.com for more gift-giving ideas and to find food artisans near you.

Leah Chester-Davis has her own business, Chester-Davis Communications (chester-davis.com), specializing in food, farm and lifestyle brands and organizations.

GOOD FOOD awards

Award-Winning Fare

The Good Food Awards is a national initiative to recognize craft food producers who excel in both taste and sustainability. The coast-to-coast competition features several categories and showcases the winners in San Francisco each year.

Deck the Halls

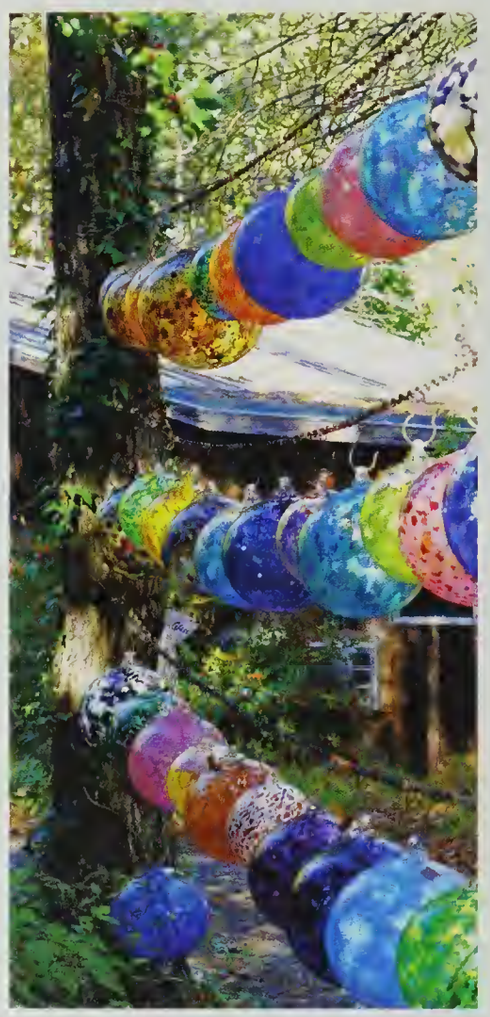
Galleries in North Carolina offer a unique shopping experience

Articles and photos by Donna Campbell Smith

The dilemma for many folks with a long Christmas shopping list is what to give that is within the budget and, at the same time, unique. We don't want to rush through the crowded big box stores, grabbing items off the aisle-end displays. We dread dealing with traffic in the cities and crowded malls. We want to give a gift that reflects having put some thought and love in its choice, a one-of-a-kind gift.

Let me guide you to an art gallery. Expensive and stuffy, you may think, but not all galleries deserve that reputation. There are some distinctive galleries in North Carolina that are full of gifts to fit a tight budget and a discerning gift recipient. Not only are these galleries ideal places to find unique gifts, they are an escape from the maddening crowd—quiet places where you can enjoy the atmosphere while you pick out that perfect gift for a relative or friend.

Let's explore a few of these oases for your holiday shopping, or perhaps a little something for your own home.





Cedar Creek's Brad Tucker checks the fire in the kiln.

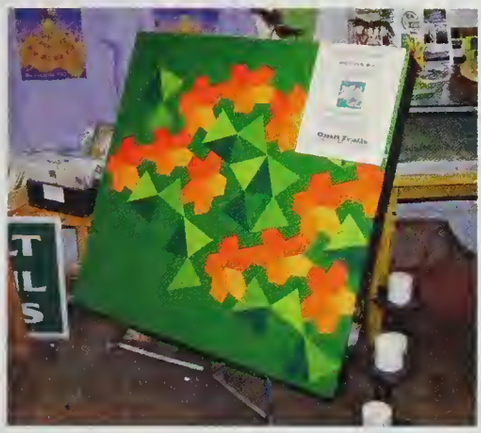
CEDAR CREEK GALLERY

Forty years ago, Sid and Pat Oakley started Cedar Creek Pottery on six acres of what was once a tobacco farm in central North Carolina near Creedmoor. In addition to the gallery are the studios of more than 10 potters and glassblowers, and several beautiful outbuildings surrounded by gardens. The grounds also serve as a gallery of garden art and sculpture. Inside on a chilly day there is likely to be a fire in the huge fireplace to warm your hands after touring the grounds.

Cedar Creek Gallery, winner of the Governor's Award for Excellence, sells works by more than 200 of America's most accomplished craftspeople. While pottery and glass are its main focus, the gallery also sells jewelry, candles, wood and metal work among its handmade treasures. A blue dot indicates the item was made by a North Carolina artisan.

Cedar Creek also has a nice service for busy shoppers they call "Shop, Wrap and Ship." At the checkout, they will box all of your gifts and provide you with complimentary wrapping paper and bows. You can take your time wrapping your gifts by the cozy fireplace. Cedar Creek will ship your gifts to any location in the United States. How is that for a time-saver?

10–6 all week | Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day | 919-528-1041
cedarcreekgallery.com



OOAK GALLERY

East of Burnsville near the Blue Ridge Parkway, you will find OOAK (One of a Kind) Gallery owned by Kari Weaver. While the gallery was established in 2011, the building has been around since 1922. Just as the name implies, here you can find beautiful one-of-a-kind gifts chosen from the works of more than 150 local artists in the nostalgic Old Micaville Country Store building. The walls and shelves of OOAK hold folk art, pottery, jewelry, glass, original art and prints, cards, books and much more.

OOAK is also the headquarters for the Western North Carolina Quilt Trails, so you will find quilt patterned motifs in some of the artwork. Be sure to take time for coffee and something yummy at Maples Coffee Shop in the same building, just step through a connecting door. The gallery is open 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Mon.–Sat. and 12–5 p.m. Sun., April through December. January through March, hours vary due to weather so call ahead.

Mon–Sat 10–5:30 | Sun Noon–5
828-675-0690 | ooakartgallery.com



SEA GREEN GALLERY

Those shoppers who live on the coast or are planning a trip to the Outer Banks will find Sea Green Gallery within earshot of the surf in Nags Head. The gallery is a family owned and operated business housed in the 1946 Grays Department Store building. Owner Susan Evans, along with her husband Phil Morgan and sons Will and Michael Morgan, keep the gallery running.

Sea Green *(also pictured at the top of page 12)* deals in the fine art of reuse. Its walls, nooks and crannies are stocked with visual art, jewelry, home décor, wall hangings and sculpture created in a variety of mediums and recycled materials. As its website warns, a visit to Sea Green Gallery may bring out the pack rat in you when you see what can be done to turn trash into treasure. Step out the back door to enter the garden area with an array of garden art and water plants. If you can't decide on which amazing art piece to buy, they have gift cards.

10–6 all week (winter hours)
252-715-2426 | seagreengallery.com



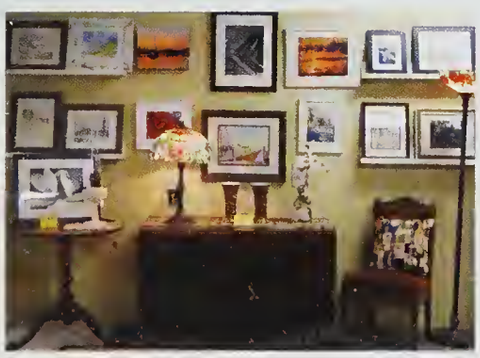
UPFRONT GALLERY

Franklin County Arts Council manages UpFront Gallery, which is housed in the front of Leslie Martin's pottery studio in downtown Franklinton. The building at 22 S. Main Street was once a funeral parlor. Its vintage tin ceiling and brick walls, enhanced with glass and mirrors, make a beautiful space that enhances the displays of art.

UpFront Gallery has works of more than 20 artists in pottery, paintings, felt, quilts, wood, cards, handmade soaps, jewelry and books. The gallery also has revolving shows with featured artists in the back of the gallery, which change monthly.

Thurs–Sat 10:30–5 | Closed on holidays
919-497-6910 | fcacarts.org

If these galleries are not close to your home, just ask around. I am sure you will find another hidden gem of a gallery near you. They will welcome your patronage, and you will have the satisfaction of supporting local artisans and finding gifts that are truly one of a kind.



MAINSTREET MARKETPLACE

Also in central North Carolina, Mainstreet Marketplace is located in downtown Henderson in what was once the Gooch and Harris Tobacco House. Owner Lebert Howes bought the building and came up with the vision to give local artisans a place to showcase their work. Mainstreet Marketplace also supports performing arts with a baby grand piano in the front of the building for their events. Shoppers can browse two floors of art, handcrafts, antiques and collectibles offered by more than 50 vendors.

Mon–Fri 10–5 | Sat 10–4 | Closed Sundays | 252-438-1474

Donna Campbell Smith is a Carolina Country contributing writer who lives in Franklin County.

WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS?



This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by Dec. 6 with your name, address and the name of your electric cooperative.

Online: carolinacountry.com/where

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

Multiple entries from the same person will be disqualified.

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our January issue, will receive $25.

Have a roadside gem you'd like to share? Submit a photo, plus a brief description and general location information, at carolinacountry.com/where.

November winner

The November Where is This photo taken by Johnny Green of Clyde features what was a very small U.S. post office, built in 1878. Originally the Whiteside Cove Post Office, it was renamed the Grimshawes Post Office in 1909 (members of the Grimshawe family served as postmaster for more than 30 years starting in 1878). Though no longer operational, the old hut is located on Whiteside Cove Road near the Whiteside Cove community, at the base of Whiteside Mountain just outside Cashiers. This historic building has been a favorite for tourists and shutterbugs alike for years. According to a document inside the post office, a photo of the site hangs in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Duncan Wheale of Highlands reports that many in the community help with the building's upkeep, and said the flag was erected the day after 9/11. Correct entries came from across the state. The winning entry chosen at random from all the correct submissions came from Nancy Probst of Davidson, a Haywood EMC member.



Tell us what you think!

What do YOU like about Carolina Country magazine?

Our online reader survey is available now through December 15. We love bringing Carolina Country to you every month, and your feedback will help us plan future issues.



Want a free Apple™ iPad mini?

Complete the online survey to be included in a random drawing for an Apple™ iPad mini!

carolinacountry.com/survey

Survey answers will remain confidential. Odds of receiving the one (1) iPad mini (estimated retail value of $269) depend on the number of survey responses received.

Fresh Snowfall

A beautiful view of a common area at Hardscrabble Plantation.

Cathy Marlowe, Hillsborough, Piedmont EMC



The Photo of the Month comes from those that scored an honorable mention from the judges in our 2016 photo contest ("Carolina Country Scenes," February 2016). See even more Photos of the Week on our website **carolinacountry.com**.



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NC State University A&T State University COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Putting Knowledge to Work Solutions

'Tis the Season for Charitable Giving

Check, before you write one!

The holiday season often serves as a reminder to help the less fortunate. Donors also understand the practical benefit of giving before the end of the calendar year: To ensure credit is received on their next tax return. About 34 percent of all charitable giving is done in the last three months of the year, according to Blackbaud Inc., a supplier of software and data intelligence services for nonprofit organizations.



If you are planning to support a charitable organization, consider these tips for smart giving.

- More than 1 million charities are registered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Compare organizations and study how they function by visiting sites such as the Better Business Bureau. The best charitable organizations ensure that the majority of their revenue goes to the causes they support, not operating expenses. Websites such as charitywatch.org provide lists of top-rated charities. You can also find up-to-date information on thousands of nonprofits at guidestar.com.
- Many contributions to approved charities are tax-deductible. The key to receiving a tax deduction is making sure the charitable organization you choose is qualified by the IRS. The IRS offers an exempt organizations tool to see if an organization is eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Visit irs.gov and put "eo select check" in your field search, or you can go directly to the tool at bit.ly/IRS-ExemptCheck. You must also keep accurate records, so get a written acknowledgment or receipt for your financial contribution.
- For those who can't afford to contribute financially to a cause, there are other ways to make a positive local impact throughout the year. Do business with companies that give back. For example, Ply Gem Industries, a manufacturer of home building products based in Cary, recently launched the Home for Good project to build affordable housing across America. To learn more, visit HomeForGoodProject.com.
- Take your giving beyond a monetary donation and volunteer your time. This way, you keep it local and you can often better see how donations are spent. Websites where you can match your location and interests with organizations include volunteernc.org.

—Brandpoint

N.C. Provides Reports

Do your research if solicited for a contribution by an organization. North Carolina's Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division (CSL) posts an annual report each year online. It comes out in November or December and lists solicitors in ABC order. At a glance, you can see a solicitor's gross receipt and the percentage and amount of money that actually went to the organization.

To best research an organization, look at its listings in the last few years of CSL's annual reports. To download reports, visit sosnc.gov/forms/csl (scroll down a page). To contact CSL by phone, call 919-807-2214. North Carolina residents may call toll-free at 1-888-830-4989.

Note: Some charities are not required to get a license to solicit contributions (although some get a license anyway). For example, churches and volunteer fire departments are exempt. Visit bit.ly/NCCSL to see CSL's list of 13 exemptions.

Home Safety

Technology offers new ways to protect your family

While you may think of smart home technology as a convenience—something to save you a few steps in walking from the couch to a light switch—its offerings also include important preventative measures that can help you protect not only your valuables, but your family and your home itself. Here are some examples.

- **Water damage:** When most people think about home security, they usually think of burglary. However, water damage is the second most common cause of property loss. An early detection device, such as a flood sensor, could be the difference between a damp inconvenience and a soaking wet catastrophe in your home, especially when combined with a smart shutoff valve.
- **Door and window sensors:** Sensors are a great way to keep you alerted to potential dangers, especially on days when the kids get home earlier than you do. Placing them on entry points could alert you in the event of an invasion. A few also placed judiciously around the house—on medicine cabinets or the knife drawer, for example—can help keep your mind at ease. There are also sensors available that detect smoke and carbon monoxide.
- **Deter intruders:** The best way to deal with home invasion is to deter intruders altogether. When you're out of town, it's important to make sure your home still looks lived in. A potential intruder watching your house may note that rigid preprogrammed lighting is unvarying and conclude no one is home. Newer smart light bulb systems can randomize lighting or record and play back your daily lighting routines. They can also respond to a doorbell by turning inside lights on organically, one at a time, exactly the way you would if you were home.



bmak - Fotolia.com

Lighting that mimics your routines helps your home look lived in when you are away.

Fortunately, you don't have to live in a new house to use smart technology. The majority of today's systems and products can be installed in older homes because they leverage standards-based wired and wireless technology.

Choosing the right ones for your home depends on your personal situation. Walk through your home and ask yourself: What features would I like in this room or that one? Consider the garage also if you have one: There are products that let you know remotely if your garage door has been opened.

Often, it's simpler to install an entire system at once. However, it's also possible to add in individual products, one by one. If one product you already have needs to "talk" to one you want to add, make sure they are compatible.

You can learn more about smart home technology at many company websites, including z-wave.com and beonhome.com. There are a surprising number of security systems and products that work remotely in today's market. Do your homework and include words like "consumer reviews" and "unbiased" in your web searches.

While there's no replacement for a caring neighbor's watchful eye, these days there are numerous ways of taking home security into your own hands—no matter where you are.

—StatePoint



Winter Word Search

Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR
CHILLY
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE SKATE
ICICLE
MITTENS
SCARF
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
WINTER

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
C	B	A	W	H	W	E	W	S	I	C	C	V	D	I
T	P	S	D	O	M	Q	N	U	G	H	A	F	H	M
Q	K	U	Z	V	N	O	N	M	V	O	R	O	O	X
F	U	G	C	A	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L
R	O	Q	T	F	C	F	Y	D	K	O	G	E	Q	B
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	A	E	L	K	D	R	G
E	T	A	K	S	E	C	I	B	G	A	J	R	W	R
R	K	B	U	C	H	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	V	X
E	L	T	M	F	F	O	Y	I	K	E	Q	X	A	A
D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y

For answers: carolinacountry.com/winterwordsearch

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Try your favorite barbecue sauce with this flatbread recipe.

Holiday Leftovers

Flavorful boosts for your next-day dishes

Transforming your leftover holiday turkey or ham from mere meat you reheat into a tasty dish may be easier than you think.

For example, fresh herbs, creamy cheeses and cooking wines can be used to add dashes of flavor. This recipe from Guy Meikle, corporate chef for Mizkan America, Inc., offer a new twist on leftover turkey. Find more recipes and tips at hollandhouseflavors.com.

Family Barbecue Turkey Mini Flatbread

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

- 2 cups Marsala cooking wine
- ½ cup barbecue sauce
- 1½ cups roasted turkey, large diced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoons yellow onion, small diced
- 1 cup zucchini, large diced
- ½ teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup smoked Gouda cheese, shredded
- 1 cup fontina cheese, shredded
- 2 flatbreads (approximately 8 inches each)
- 2 teaspoons fresh cilantro, chopped

In small saucepan, reduce cooking wine to about½ cup. Mix with barbecue sauce and set aside.

Toss diced turkey with 1 tablespoon of sauce in a bowl and set that mixture aside.

Heat oil and sauté onion and zucchini about 3 minutes over high heat. Season with garlic salt and remove from heat; mix in Parmesan cheese. Set aside. In small bowl, mix Gouda and fontina cheeses together and set aside.

Spread each flatbread with an even layer of barbecue sauce. Top each with 1 cup cheese and half the zucchini and turkey mixtures.

Bake 10 minutes. Garnish with chopped cilantro, then cut flatbreads in half and serve.

Yield: 4 servings

—FamilyFeatures.com

Ham it up!

Here are some delicious, easy ways to enjoy your leftover cooked ham:

- Make a ham and cheese pizza. Start with a store-bought crust, then top with grated cheese. Mozzarella is fine for the foundation, but consider adding additional cheeses, too, such as Monterey Jack or goat cheese. Add sliced bits of ham and other toppings of your choosing. Creative choices include chopped figs, pineapple and asparagus.
- Add a sprinkle of brown sugar to ham slices and brown them with some butter in a frying pan. Serve them with your eggs at breakfast.
- Make a grilled Swiss cheese and ham sandwich, adding a slather or two of spicy mustard on the ham slices.
- Add diced bits of ham to leftover scalloped potatoes. Sprinkle with paprika and garlic powder.
- Sauté slivers of ham with fresh garlic and butter, then stir them into hot, drained spaghetti or fettucine. Stir in a basic cream sauce.
- Mix ham with wild rice and green peas. Top with freshly grated Parmesan cheese.
- Pair bits of ham with lentil beans seasoned with onion. Top with fresh parsley.

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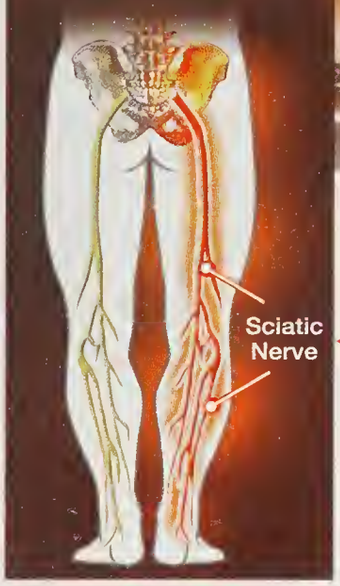
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☐ FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional) Add An Additional $2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)	$ 2.95
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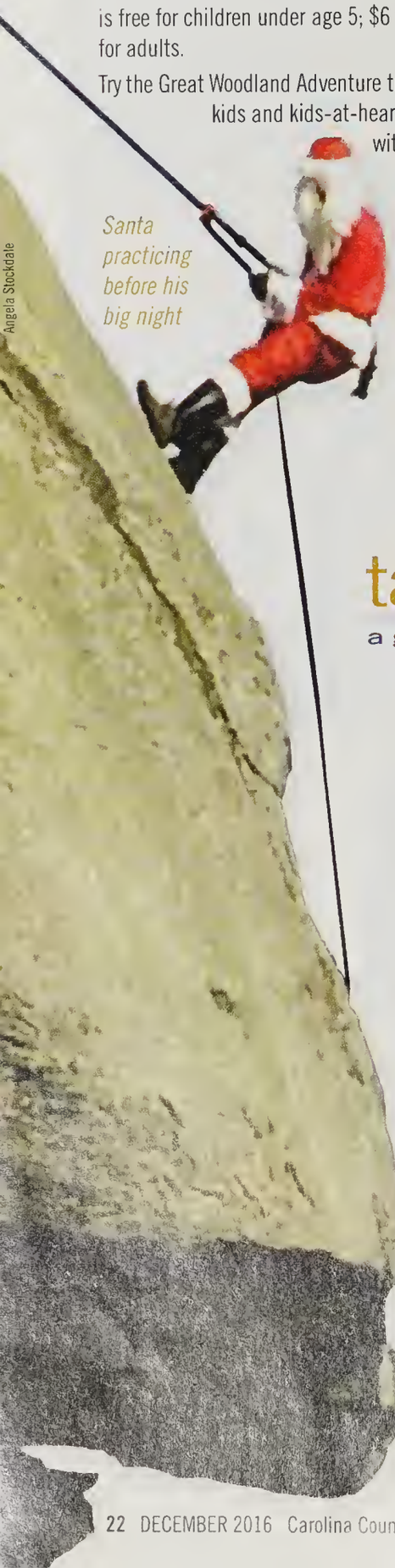
Check or money order payable to: Dream Products, Inc.
Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496

Extreme Santa

You might as well know. To climb down all those chimneys around the world in a single night, Santa practices beforehand. You can watch him rappel from the top of Chimney Rock about every 30–45 minutes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 3 and 10. During these times, you can also meet Mrs. Claus and enjoy complimentary hot cocoa and cookies. There is no additional cost with paid park admission, which is free for children under age 5; $6 for youth ages 5–15; and $13 for adults.

Try the Great Woodland Adventure trail while you are there. Designed for kids and kids-at-heart, it features 12 discovery stations with locally made sculptures that educate guests on animals who call Chimney Rock home. Chimney Rock State Park is 25 miles southeast of Asheville in Hickory Nut Gorge. Hours and days of operation are different during the winter. To learn more, 1-800-277-9611 or chimneyrockpark.com.

To see Santa and hear him talk about his rappelling, visit carolinacountry.com.



Santa practicing before his big night

Angela Stockdale



Pass the Meat Pie

Does turkey make you think of a Christmas dinner or a Thanksgiving feast? If you lived in North Carolina in the 1700s, you might have often eaten roasted turkey, chicken or goose. But the really special dish for celebrations was a meat pie. It required more ingredients and was harder to cook than a roasted bird. A meat pie didn't contain seafood but was also often called a "sea pie," because its meat was preserved with salt, which kept well on a sea voyage. A typical meat pie might have included ham, chicken and onions, and potatoes or apples.

tar heel lessons

a guide to NC for teachers and students



State Archives

Poster showing the different types of license plates issued by the state in 1947

Ctrl-Alt-Delete: A Combo That Stuck

The next time your computer locks up and you need to reboot, thank David J. Bradley. The former IBM employee invented pressing "Ctrl-Alt-Delete" in the early 1980s in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park.

It took Bradley about five minutes to write the code. The delete key was chosen since it was far away from the Ctrl and Alt keys, so users wouldn't hit the combination by accident. But originally, the function wasn't meant to be used by the general public. Rather, the combination was implemented so software developers and technical writers could quickly reset early computers rather than power them all the way down.

Do You Know...

that driver's licenses weren't mandatory until the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Uniform Driver's License Act in 1935? The bill was a response to the fact that more than 1,000 deaths had occurred on the state's highways since the rise of the automobile.

The act defined a motor vehicle as "any rubber-tired vehicle propelled or drawn by any power other than muscular." Aircraft, ambulances and agricultural and industrial tractors were excluded from the licensing requirement.

Drivers were required to be at least 16 years of age, no test was required. Only the word that the applicant was experienced and careful was needed. Exams didn't become a requirement until 1948.

Cars parked in front of a crowd on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, circa 1925



ALL-NEW Bigger Buttons

No Contracts

"My friends all hate their cell phones... I love mine!" Here's why.

FREE Car Charger

*Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to the **ALL-NEW** Jitterbug Flip.*

"Cell phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine." Not the new Jitterbug® Flip. It features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has a larger display so you can actually see it.

"I had to get my son to program it." Your Jitterbug Flip set-up process is simple. We'll even program it with your favorite numbers.

"I tried my sister's cell phone... I couldn't hear it." The Jitterbug Flip is designed with a powerful speaker and is hearing aid compatible. Plus, there's an adjustable volume control.

"I don't need stock quotes, Internet sites or games on my phone. I just want to talk with my family and friends." Life is complicated enough... The Jitterbug Flip is simple.

"What if I don't remember a number?" Friendly, helpful Operators are available 24 hours a day and will even greet you by name when you call.

"My cell phone company wants to lock me in a two-year contract!" Not with the Jitterbug Flip. There are no contracts to sign and no penalty if you discontinue your service.



Available in Red and Graphite.

Monthly Plan	$14.99/mo	$19.99/mo
Monthly Minutes	200	600
Operator Assistance	24/7	24/7
Long Distance Calls	No add'l charge	No add'l charge
Voice Dial	FREE	FREE
Nationwide Coverage	YES	YES
Friendly Return Policy[1]	30 days	30 days

More minute plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

"I'd like a cell phone to use in an emergency, but I don't want a high monthly bill." The Jitterbug Flip has a plan to fit your needs... and your budget.

"Many phones have features that are rarely needed and hard to use!" The Jitterbug Flip contains easy-to-use features that are meaningful to you. A newly designed built-in camera makes it easy and fun for you to capture and share your favorite memories. And a new flashlight with a built-in magnifier helps you see in dimly lit areas, the Jitterbug Flip has all the features you need.

Enough talk. Isn't it time you found out more about the cell phone that's changing all the rules? Call now, Jitterbug product experts are standing by.

Order now and receive a **FREE Car Charger** for your Jitterbug Flip – a $25 value. Call now!

NEW Jitterbug Flip Cell Phone

Call toll-free to get your Jitterbug Flip.

Please mention promotional code 104732.

1-877-498-1468

www.jitterbugdirect.com

jitterbug flip

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47665

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Jitterbug is owned by GreatCall, Inc. Your invoices will come from GreatCall. Plans and Services require purchase of a Jitterbug phone and a one-time setup fee of $35. Monthly fees do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges and are subject to change. Coverage is not available everywhere. 5Star or 9-1-1 calls can only be made when cellular service is available. [1]We will refund the full price of the Jitterbug phone and the activation fee (or setup fee) if it is returned within 30 days of purchase in like-new condition. We will also refund your first monthly service charge if you have less than 30 minutes of usage. If you have more than 30 minutes of usage, a per minute charge of 35 cents will be deducted from your refund for each minute over 30 minutes. You will be charged a $10 restocking fee. The shipping charges are not refundable. There are no additional fees to call GreatCall's U.S.-based customer service. However, for calls to a GreatCall Operator in which a service is completed, you will be charged 99 cents per call, and minutes will be deducted from your monthly rate plan balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Operator. Jitterbug and GreatCall are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. ©2016 GreatCall, Inc. ©2016 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

December Events



Olde Fashioned Christmas
Dec. 2, Hendersonville

Mountains

Olde Fashioned Christmas
Caroling, refreshments
Dec. 2, Hendersonville
828-233-3216
downtownhendersonville.org

Toe River Studio Tour
100 participating artists
Dec. 2–4, Burnsville
828-682-7215
toeriverarts.org

Christmas Parade
Dec. 3, Burnsville
828-682-7413
yanceychamber.com

Raleigh Ringers
Concert by hand bell choir
Dec. 4, Washington
252-946-6738
gobcca.org

Holiday Sip & Shop
Cider, artist demos
Dec. 9–10, Asheville
828-253-7651
grovewood.com

New Year's Eve Extravaganza
Ice skating, fireworks
Dec. 31, Blowing Rock
828-295-7828
appskimtn.com

ONGOING

[illegible]
Live music, buggy rides
Dec. 2–10, Dillsboro
828-586-2155
visitdillsboro.org

Christmas Festivities
Hayrides, ice skating
Dec. 2–17, Forest City
828-248-5200
townofforestcity.com

Satie's Holiday Sale
Fiber arts, ornaments
Dec. 2–24, Lenoir
828-754-2486
caldwellarts.com

Piedmont

Christmas Tree Lighting
Dec. 1, Fort Bragg
910-396-9126
bragg.armymwr.com/us/bragg

Jingle on Main
Kids make ornaments
Dec. 1, Roxboro
336-322-2104
piedmontcc.edu/jingle

Singing Christmas Tree
Orchestra, 250 singers
Dec. 1–4, Fayetteville
910-484-3191
snydermbc.com

A Christmas Carol
Free movie
Dec. 2, Roxboro
336-597-1709
piedmontcc.edu/community

The Raleigh Ringers
Concert by hand bell choir
Dec. 2, Rocky Mount
252-985-5197
ncwc.edu/arts/dunncenter

Yuletide Feaste
Renaissance-style dinner
Dec. 2–3, Fayetteville
910-630-7100
Methodist.edu/yuletide-feaste

The Nutcracker
By City Youth Ballet
Dec. 2–4, Albemarle
980-989-1589
uwharrieyoutharts.com

Welcome to December
Christmas concert
Dec. 3, Lexington
336-956-8814
lexingtonchoralsociety.org

Christmas Open House
Decorations, refreshments
Dec. 3, Seagrove
336-879-4145
thomaspottery.com

Holiday Shoppe Craft Show
Dec. 3, Chapel Hill
919-929-2241
stmcsnc.org

Green Beret Jingle Jog
5K & 10K
Dec. 3, Fayetteville
910-988-9087
cincodemayo10k.org

Kansas in Concert
Dec. 3, Fayetteville
910-438-4100
crowncomplexnc.com/events

The Uncommon Bond of Julia & Rose
Author discusses book
Dec. 3, Charlotte
704-568-1774
charlottemuseum.org

Christmas Open House
Bryant House & McLendon Cabin
Dec. 4, Carthage
910-692-2051
moorehistory.com

Holiday Jubilee
Free photos with Santa
Dec. 4, Fayetteville
910-486-1330
museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

Holiday Spectacular!
Concert by Sons of Serendip
Dec. 4, Fayetteville
910-672-1571
fsuarts.com

Holiday Pops Concert
Dec. 7, Fayetteville
877-627-6724
ncsymphony.org

Behold: A Folk Christmas Cantata
Dec. 8, Fayetteville
910-420-4383
sweetteashakespeare.com

Market House Open House
Vintage holiday ads, artifacts
Dec. 9, Fayetteville
910-433-1457
fcpr.us/transportation_museum.aspx

Hee Haw Country Christmas
Family-friendly jokes, music
Dec. 9–11, Roxboro
336-597-1709
piedmontcc.edu/community


The Raleigh Ringers
Dec. 2, Rocky Mount

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

In case something changes after Carolina Country goes to press, check information from the contact listed.

Rotary Christmas Parade
More than 100 units
Dec. 10, Fayetteville
910-483-5311
rotarychristmasparade.com

The Nutcracker
Classic holiday story
Dec. 10, Fayetteville
910-484-2736
ncstateballet.com

Community Christmas
Life-size Nativity scene
Dec. 14–15, High Point
336-841-4636
highpoint.edu/community/Christmas

Follow Your Heart
Disney on Ice show
Dec. 14–18, Fayetteville
910-438-4100
crowncomplexnc.com/events

Christmas Open House
Oak Grove Plantation tours
Dec. 16–18, Dunn
910-489-2907
Find it on Facebok

Christmas Art Show
One-of-a-kind gifts
Dec. 17, Franklinton
919-497-6910
fcacarts.org

Walter Beasley in Concert
Dec. 17, Fayetteville
800-514-3849
etix.com

The Del McCoury Band
Dec. 17, Mount Airy
336-786-7998
surryarts.org

Messiah Sing!
Cumberland Oratorio Singers
Dec. 17, Fayetteville
910-630-7153
singwithcos.org

The Nutcracker
By Goldsboro Ballet
Dec. 17, Rocky Mount
252-985-5197
ncwc.edu/arts/dunncenter

New Year's Eve Flea Drop
Cannon firing
Dec. 31, Eastover
910-323-0707
eastovernc.com

Kwanzaa Celebration
Parade, feast
Dec. 31, Fayetteville
910-485-8035
umojafaync.org

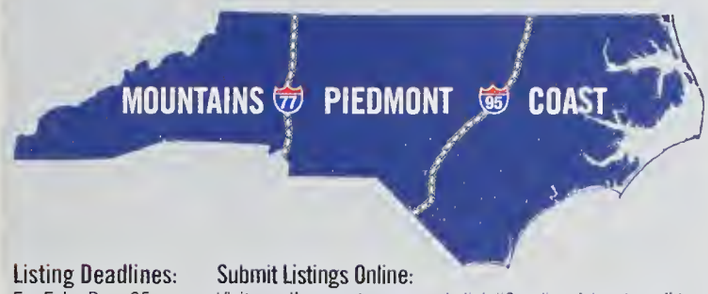
Antique Gun & Military Collector Show
Dec. 31–Jan. 1, Raleigh
704-282-1339
thecarolinatrader.com

ONGOING

Christmas Lights
Live nativity scene
Through Dec. 21, Linden
910-273-3071
dentonridge.com

Carolina Compass Policy

- We list events in the magazine as space allows and may edit as needed. We list more events on carolinacountry.com in the Carolina Adventures section.
- All submissions must be made on carolinacountry.com in Carolina Adventures/Submit an Event. Deadlines are posted there, too. ***(No email or U.S. Mail.)***
- Public venue events only. *(No business-hosted events.)*
- Limit 3 events per venue per month in the magazine. More posted online.
- For accuracy, ongoing events must be submitted monthly.
- Public contact required: website, email or phone number.



Listing Deadlines:
For Feb.: Dec. 25
For March.: Jan. 25

Submit Listings Online:
Visit carolinacountry.com and click "Carolina Adventures" to add your event to the magazine and/or our website.


The Night Before Christmas
Dec 3, Manteo

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
Comedic play
Dec. 1–18, Fayetteville
910-323-4234
cfrt.org

The Heart of Christmas
Live nativity scene, rides
Dec. 2–11, Oakboro
704-485-8335
public.relations@mineralspringsbaptistchurch.org

Holiday Lights in the Garden
S'mores, crafts for kids
Dec. 9–30, Fayetteville
910-486-0221
capefearbg.org

Carriage Rides with Santa
Dec. 10–18, Fayetteville
910-222-3382
visitdowntownfayetteville.com

Coast

Alina Kiryayeva
Classical pianist
Dec. 2–3, Oriental
252-617-2125
pamlicomusic.org

Christmas by the Sea Parade
Dec. 3, Oak Island
910-457-6964
ncbrunswick.com

Colonial Christmas Artisan Fair
Potters, cake makers
Dec. 3, Enfield
252-445-2234
derpserves.org

The Night Before Christmas
Puppet show
Dec 3, Manteo
252-475-1500
roanokeisland.com

Christmas at the Old Bridge
Refreshments, tree lighting
Dec. 6, Sunset Beach
910-363-6585
oldbridgepreservationsociety.org

A Christmas Carol
Dec. 9–10, Edenton
252-528-8300
epicmusictheatre.com

Christmas Parade
Little Swift Creek VFD
Dec. 10, Ernul
252-658-4219
Find it on Facebook

Christmas Open House
Games, demos at plantation
Dec. 10, White Oak
910-874-1707
harmonyhallvinc@gmail.com

Christmas Parade & Festival
Dance troupe, food
Dec. 10, Leland
910-371-9921
ncbrunswick.com/event/542

Christmas Flotilla
Twinkling vessels
Dec. 10, Southport
404-237-3761
ncbrunswick.com

Home for the Holidays
Band, other singers
Dec. 10, Smithfield
919-209-2099
jccperformingarts.com

Cookie Walk
Holiday music
Dec. 10, New Bern
252-633-2109
christchurchnewbern.com

Crystal Coast Christmas
Drama, Singing Saints
Dec. 17–18, Cape Carteret
252-393-2417
ccbcnow.com

ONGOING

Winterfest
Home tour, cookie contest
Dec. 2–11, Southport
404-237-3761
ncbrunswick.com



Homes for the Holidays

The Christmas spirit burns bright on these seasonal tours

Holiday home tours are a gracious tradition. They are a rare opportunity to see merrily decorated interiors of beautiful homes. Here is a sampling of the many tours planned across North Carolina. You can search for more home tours in the events calendars at carolinacountry.com and visitnc.com.

Mountains

Shelby, Fallston

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Held in two areas, the tour celebrates the homeowners' individual styles. Lunch is available for $5 at the Cleveland County Arts Council in Shelby from 11-1 p.m. Buy tour tickets for $15 at the Council at 111 S. Washington St. Info: 704-484-2787 or ccartscouncil.org

North Wilkesboro

Sunday, Dec. 4, 4–7 p.m
Several private homes will be open, and Benton Hall on 300 D. St. will offer refreshments and music from 6–8 p.m. Tickets are $20 at select sites and online through Dec. 3 at downtownnorthwilkesboro.com. Info: 336-667-7129, ext. 3021

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Some home tours sell out: If possible, buy tickets in advance. Also, check for updates through a tour's contact information and on Facebook before you go.

Asheville

Saturday, Dec. 10, 1–5 p.m.
The tour showcases a range of styles in Montford, just north of downtown Asheville. Buy tickets for $25 (cash or check only) at the Asheville Visitors Center Gift Shop, 36 Montford Avenue, from December 1-10. Info: 828-258-6101 or montfordtour.com

Piedmont

Charlotte

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 2 & 3, 5–9 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 4, 1–5 p.m.
Held in the historic Fourth Ward, the tour includes a variety of private homes. Throughout the weekend, choirs and hand bell ensembles will perform and tour guests can enjoy complimentary carriage rides. Buy tickets for $30 online until noon on Dec. 2, or at select sites. Children who cannot be carried must have a ticket. Info: fofw.org

Wake Forest

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1–7 p.m.
Offered every other year, this tour highlights a mix of handsome homes in the historic district. Advance tickets $18; and $24 day of tour. Buy them online or at select sites, including the tour's headquarters, the Wake Forest Historical Museum at 414 N. Main St. Info: 919-435-9516 or bit.ly/ChristmasinWF

Apex

Sunday, Dec 4, 1–5 p.m.
Restored homes, plus the town's historic train depot, are among site locations. Buy tickets at several sites, including the Apex Chamber of Commerce at 220 N. Salem St. Advance tickets are $10 per adult, $5 ages 12 and under; and $12 per adult, $5 ages 12 and under day of tour. Either way, "babes-in-arms" are admitted free. Info: (800) 345-4504 or apexhistoricalsociety.com. Day of tour: 919-924-8146

Coast

Enfield

Sat., Dec. 3, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Enfield's rich history will be showcased at several sites, including a 19th century plantation complex. Tour tickets are $25 ($20 for seniors). Buy advance tickets online or at select locations. The day of the tour, purchase tickets at the Historic Episcopal Church of the Advent at 200 Batchelor Ave. Info: 252-445-1031, 252-445-2234, or derpserves.org

Wilmington

Saturday, Dec. 3, 4–8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 4, 1–5 p.m.
A selection of private homes, churches and historical sites downtown that differ each year. Buy tickets for $30 online at the website below or at select sites, including the Latimer House at 126 South Third St. Info: 910-762-0492 or lcfhs.org

Edenton

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 9–10, 4–8 p.m.
Homes in Edenton's 300-years-plus historic district are featured in this Dickens-themed tour that includes free horse-drawn carriage rides. Advance tickets are $30, $35 the days of the tour; children under 12 are admitted free. Buy tickets at the Penelope Barker House at 505 South Broad St. or by calling 252-482-7800 or online at ehcnc.org.

—Karen Olson House

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ANY SINGLE ITEM

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, automotive lifts, compressors, floor jacks, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trenchers, welders, Admiral, Badland, Bremen, CoverPro, Creekstone, Daytona, Diablo, Doyle, Drummond, Earthquake, Franklin, Hercules, Hoit, Jupiter, Lynxx, Maddox, Portland, Predator, Quinn, StormCat, Union, Viking. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17

43399191

SUPER COUPON

FREE
WITH ANY PURCHASE

CEN-TECH 7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER
ITEM 90899 shown
98025/69096



$16.45 VALUE

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day

43402021

WOW SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL
30", 5 DRAWER TOOL CART
ITEM 95272 shown
63308/69397/61427



Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 704 lb. capacity

SAVE $235

$164.99
$189.99 comp at $399.99

43367945

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

SUPER COUPON

SAVE 66%

72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET
HaulMaster
ITEM 66537 shown
69505/62418



$5.99
$8.99
Customer Rating ★★★★★
comp at $17.97

43366965

LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

WOW SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating ★★★★
12 VOLT, 10/2/50 AMP BATTERY CHARGER/ CEN-TECH ENGINE STARTER
ITEM 60581
60653 shown



SAVE 57%

$29.99 $43.99 comp at $69.99

43401311

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

WOW SUPER COUPON

RAPID PUMP® 3 TON LOW PROFILE HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK
PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE
ITEM 61282 shown
61253/62326



• Weighs 73 lbs.

20"

SAVE $185

Customer Rating ★★★★★

$84.99 $99.99 comp at $269.99

43372216

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON

16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE
PITTSBURGH



CLAW ITEM 69006 60715/60714
RIP ITEM 47873 shown 69005/62626

SAVE 77%

YOUR CHOICE $3.99

Customer Rating ★★★★★

$4.99 comp at $17.99

43407236

LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

SUPER COUPON

12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE
ITEM 61256/61889
60813 shown



BADLAND

SAVE $453

$299.99
$399.99 comp at $752.99

Customer Rating ★★★★★

43364326

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

SUPER COUPON

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER
drillmaster
ITEM 60625 shown
95578/69645



SAVE 50%

Customer Rating ★★★★★

$9.99
$14.99 comp at $20.26

43407815

LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

SUPER COUPON

SUPER QUIET PREDATOR GENERATORS
4000 PEAK/ 3200 RUNNING WATTS 6.5 HP (212 CC) GAS GENERATORS
ITEM 69676/69729/63080/63079 shown
ITEM 69675/69728/63090/63089 CALIFORNIA ONLY
Wheel kit sold separately.



Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 70 dB noise level

$289.99
$339.99 comp at $469

43411332

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

SUPER COUPON

one step gardens
SOLAR ROPE LIGHT
ITEM 62533/68353 shown



Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE 66%

• 16 ft. lit, 22 ft. long

$9.99
$13.99 comp at $29.97

43415161

LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON

18 VOLT CORDLESS 1/2" DRILL/DRIVER WITH KEYLESS CHUCK
CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS



Includes one 18V NiCd battery and charger.

SAVE $59

$39.99
$49.99 comp at $99

Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 62427
63059
68850 shown

43397883

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating ★★★★★
STEP STOOL/ WORKING PLATFORM
HaulMaster
ITEM 62515
66911 shown



• 350 lb. capacity

SAVE 65%

$19.99
$29.99 comp at $57.55

43390422

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

WOW SUPER COUPON

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS AIR COMPRESSORS
CENTRAL PNEUMATIC



A. HOT DOG ITEM 69269 97080 shown
B. PANCAKE ITEM 95275 shown 60637/61615

SAVE 59%

YOUR CHOICE $39.99
$59.99 comp at $98.62

43418607

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day

WOW SUPER COUPON

SAVE 70%

9 PIECE FULLY POLISHED PITTSBURGH COMBINATION WRENCH SETS
Customer Rating ★★★★★



SAE ITEM 42304 shown 69043/63282
METRIC ITEM 42305 69044/63171

YOUR CHOICE $5.99
$8.99 comp at $19.97

43422832

LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Limit one coupon per customer per day

SUPER COUPON

SAVE $228

6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINES
PREDATOR ENGINES
ITEM 60363/69730



Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 68121/69727 shown CALIFORNIA ONLY

$99.99
$119.99 comp at $328

43407050

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/25/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

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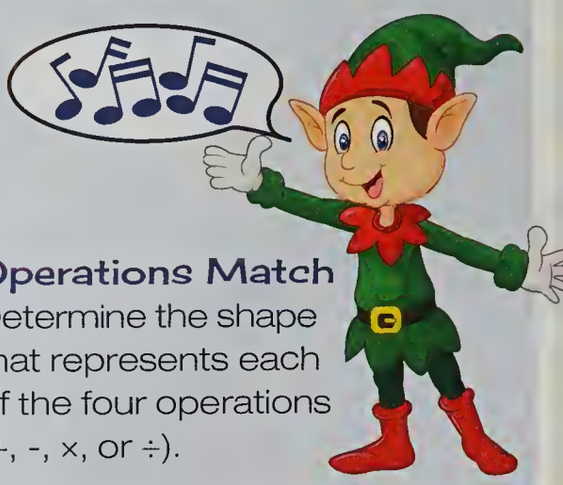
Only used once, never opened, small stain.

Use the capital letters in the code key below to fill in the blanks above.

E A C H R U P T means
s c r a m b l e

What do you call an elf who sings?

A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _



Operations Match

Determine the shape that represents each of the four operations (+, -, ×, or ÷).

Use those operations to solve the equations and answer, "What do you call an elf who sings?" when you use the code key listed below.

3 ▲ 6 ✱ 4 = 2 ✱ (10 ▲ 2)

(6 ■ 1) ▲ 2 = 32 ✺ 4 ✱ 2

▲ means___ ✱ means___

■ means___ ✺ means___

Solve these, then plug in your solutions to solve the riddle above.

40 ✺ 2 ✱ 3 = ___

13 ✱ 11 ■ 6 = ___

(7 ■ 6) ▲ 1 = ___

4 ▲ 4 ✺ 1 = ___

22 ✺ 2 ✱ 5 = ___

7 ✱ 1 ■ 3 = ___

(13 ■ 7) ▲ 3 = ___

Code Key:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Second Thought On A First Line

Breathes there a man with soul so dead
who never to himself hath said,
(If they'd just go home,
we'd go to bed.) -cgj

Domi-No.s

Each digit in these multiplication problems stands for the letter below it. Solve the problems and write your answers in the box tops, one digit to each box. Then match boxes to find hidden words in your answers.

2	3	7	6
S	R	L	T

X 4 E

3	9	1	6	0	8	8
R	C	H	T	P	F	F

X 4 E

	A		

	A					A	

For answers, please see page 33.

The Simple Mistake That Makes You Seem Older and Less Capable



One ear doctor's affordable invention helps you reclaim your hearing and participate more fully in life.



Incredible...
"I was surprised to hear saunds I had fargatten existed – the crispness af the bells we use in Church, the splash af water running, the rich avertanes in music. Thank yau."
– Rev. John C

Life-Changing...
"Thank yau far making an affardable hearing aid sa that peaple like me can again be part af canversatians..."
– Cathy C

Value-Packed...
"I'm a physician and I knaw haw much people spend an their health care. MDHearingAids are just as effective (if nat mare) than traditianally high-priced hearing aids."
– Dr. Chang

Ignoring a Hearing Loss Can Be the Biggest Mistake of Your Life.

The truth is, untreated hearing loss can affect you in just about every way imaginable- physically, mentally, and emotionally. Straining to join family conversations or asking friends to continually repeat themselves are all surefire ways to make others perceive you as far older and less capable.



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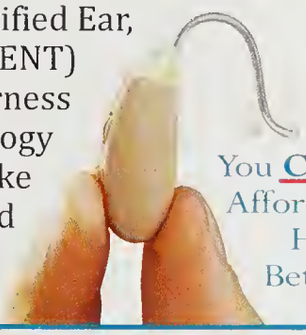
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- ☑ 24/7 Audiologist Support
- ☑ 100% Money-Back Guarantee

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- ✱**Only MDHearingAid** has more than 100,000 satisfied customers.
- ✱**Only MDHearingAid** offers affordable lowest-priced FDA-registered hearing aids designed and assembled in America and provides FREE after-sale expert support online or by phone.

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By Hannah McKenzie



Holiday Light Savings

Q: Every Christmas, I bleed money from all the gift buying and traveling. I'm wondering if I could save a bit of money by using more energy efficient holiday décor. I love having my home's interior and exterior decorated to the hilt—Griswold style—so I'm not willing to sacrifice much.

A: The holiday season is filled with great festivities and food, but leaves many families drained of cash in the New Year. There are many opportunities to keep your electric costs low while still being a strong contender in the neighborhood house decorating competition.

Obviously, the cheapest choice is to roll old school and use decorations that don't require electricity. Wreaths on doors and windows, garland, ribbon around your tree, and poinsettias all offer a festive feel without using electricity.

If you can't imagine a Christmas without lights or a jumbo inflated Santa, making wise choices can minimize your energy use.

Choose decorations wisely.

For light strings, including icicles, nets, and ropes, the choice is easy. Energy Star® certified decorative light strings are light-emitting diodes (LED) that use at least 75 percent less energy than standard light strings. However, the savings may be massively more.

When considering other illuminated, inflated or projecting décor, look at the wattage. A quick calculation (see table for an example) will reveal the cost to keep Santa and his reindeer lit all night, and the polar bear inflated 24/7. A trip to the store may be required to scrutinize the box or product plug since wattage is not often included in online product specifications for outdoor décor.

Limit the hours of lighting.

West of Charlotte, McAdenville, also known as "Christmas Town USA" (mcadenville-christmastown.com), is an incredible sight to behold. Throughout the town, its homes, offices, lake and greenery are illuminated from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays and 5:30 to 11 p.m. on weekends (December 1-26). Consider following their example and limiting the hours your home is illuminated. Your wallet (and your neighbors) will be grateful.

There are numerous options for controlling electric holiday décor, including timers, remotes and smart plugs. What works best for you depends on your preferences. A simple timer set for certain hours is basic, yet reliable technology. Some folks love being able to control their lights and monitor energy use with a smartphone app, so purchasing a few smart plugs such as the TP-Link or Belkin WeMo® will fit the bill.

Limit the number of days.

After spending countless hours planning and decorating your home for Christmas, it is hard to be motivated to turn off the twinkle lights and pack everything away. On the upside, fewer days of electric décor means less energy used, so consider limiting holiday lights to the month of December.

I look forward to admiring all the beautifully lit homes in N.C. as I travel to visit my Cabarrus County family this holiday season.

Hannah McKenzie is a residential building science consultant for Advanced Energy in Raleigh.

PRODUCT	Watts	Hours over 30 days	kWh (watts*hours/1000)	Total Cost ($0.12*kWh)
C9 LED 33' String, Energy Star certified, $20	3.3	180 hours (6 hours/day) 720 hours (24 hours/day)	0.594 2.376	$0.07 $0.29
C9 Incandescent 25' String, $8	175	180 hours (6 hours/day) 720 hours (24 hours/day)	31.5 126	$3.78 $15.12

Chinese Evergreen Aglow



L.A. Jackson

The common Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema sp.*) is as advertised: A green speckled or striped houseplant that can provide modest interest to almost any indoor room. But if you are looking for more visual sizzle, consider a dazzling oxymoron that is the red Chinese evergreen.

Generally available in garden centers and big box store nurseries going by various cultivar names such as "Siam," "Aurora," "Crete" and "Black Cherry," this crimson-tinged beauty is not only suitable for the current red-and-green-scheme of the Yuletide season, but it can be a dependable, eye-catching indoor accent for the rest of the year as well. As a bonus, Chinese evergreens (either red or plain green) are often found on top 10 lists for houseplants that are extra effective in filtering indoor pollutants.

And the red Chinese evergreen is one tough plant. This perennial is easy to grow and will do well even in low-lit areas—actually, the only place not to put it is in direct sunlight. For the best color and a fuller shape, however, a bright room with windows facing a northern or eastern exposure is ideal. This attention-getter will also do well in strong artificial light, such as is typical in an office setting.

Although this tropical Far East native will tolerate dry indoor conditions, occasionally misting the leaves makes it happier. Keep the soil moist but not soggy, which means when the top half inch of the dirt is dry to the touch, it's time to water. Adding a diluted quality houseplant fertilizer solution about every two months is another good maintenance practice. Its pruning requirements are simple: See a spent leaf, snip it. Finally, this slow-growing plant only needs to be repotted every two to three years.

As pretty as red Chinese evergreen is, look but don't eat. In other words, it is not the kind of plant that should be in reach of inquisitive kids or pets because, like many other houseplants, its leaves are toxic in a tummy, so be sure it is placed in a safe, out-of-reach location.

Garden To Do's

December

- ☐ Smooth-leafed, indoor plants such as rubber plant, dracaena and philodendron will benefit from occasionally having their leaves wiped with a moist cloth to remove dust, which interferes with their photosynthesis process.
- ☐ When pruning a large branch, always undercut a third of the limb before finishing sawing from the top. This will prevent it from splitting and tearing away bark from the main trunk.
- ☐ Any leftover pots that will be used next spring for plants or starting seeds need to be sterilized. Wash and let them soak for 30 minutes in a solution of one part bleach and ten parts water, and then allow to air dry before storing for the spring.

January

- ☐ While researching vegetable and ornamental varieties to try in this year's garden, consider not only disease- and insect-resistant plants but also drought-tolerant selections.
- ☐ Lots of lawn to mow? While the grass is dormant and relatively easy to remove or till under, consider enlarging flower beds and natural areas to tame the trouble of too much turf.
- ☐ Inspect houseplants periodically for signs of insect activity such as eggs or damaged leaves and dispatch any unwanted invaders before they can become a full-blown infestation.

L.A. Jackson is the former editor of Carolina Gardener Magazine. If you would like to ask him a question about your garden, contact L.A. at: lajackson1@gmail.com

Tip of the Month

'Tis the season of the poinsettia. Many of these traditional Christmas plants come in pots adorned with either fancy foil or pretty plastic wrap. While these extra bits of holiday cheer do look nice, they could also prevent pots from draining properly. Since poinsettias will suffer in soggy, swampy soil, poke holes in the bottoms of the wrap—the containers, too, if they have solid bottoms—or just remove the wrap. And with any extra water now free to flow out of the pots, don't forget to put them in shallow saucers.

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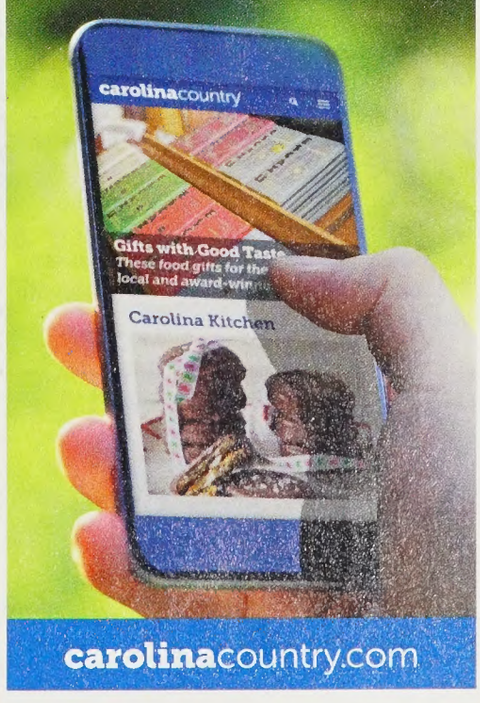
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Pepper-Jelly Glazed Hot Wings

- 3 pounds chicken wings
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ cup pepper jelly
- 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 3 tablespoons habañero sauce
- 5 dashes hot sauce (optional)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Garnish: fresh cilantro

Spray grill rack with nonstick, nonflammable cooking spray. Preheat grill to medium-high heat (350–400 degrees).

To prepare wings, start from the wing tip and find the first joint. Cut in the middle of joint to separate tip from wing. Discard tip. Find the next joint and cut skin to expose bone. Place knife blade in joint. Place palm of free hand on back of knife and push down hard to break through joint. Repeat with remaining wings. Wash wings and pat dry with paper towels; spray wings with nonstick cooking spray. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Grill wings, turning every 5 minutes, until brown and crispy, 35 to 40 minutes. Set aside.

In a saucepan over medium heat, bring pepper jelly, vinegar, habañero sauce, hot sauce, and butter to a simmer, stirring occasionally until thoroughly combined. Place grilled wings in a large bowl. Pour half of sauce over wings, tossing to coat.

Return wings to grill; cook until sauce just begins to caramelize, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Place wings on a serving platter; drizzle with remaining sauce. Garnish with cilantro, if desired.



Chicken and Broccoli Casserole

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 (8 ounce) package button mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh garlic
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 cups whole milk
- 1 cup shredded sharp white Cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 2½ teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 4 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 5 cups broccoli florets, blanched and drained
- ¼ cup sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large saucepan, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, until liquid evaporates, approximately 8 minutes. Remove from pan, and set aside.

Reduce heat to medium. Add butter to pan, stirring until melted. Stir in flour. Cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute. Add milk; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer, stirring constantly, until thickened, approximately 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Add Cheddar, thyme, salt and pepper, stirring until cheese melts.

In a large bowl, combine cheese sauce, mushroom mixture, chicken and broccoli. Spoon into a 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with almonds. Bake until browned and bubbly, approximately 15 minutes.

From Your Kitchen

White Chocolate Pound Cake

- 1 box yellow cake mix with butter
- 1 box white chocolate Jell-O instant pudding
- ½ cup oil
- ¾ cup water
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 (8 ounce) carton sour cream
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup white chocolate morsels
- Non-stick baking spray with flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray Bundt pan with non-stick baking spray with flour.

In a bowl mix together cake mix, pudding mix, oil, water, sugar and sour cream. Mix well using mixer. Add 1 egg at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir the white chocolate morsels into the batter.

Pour mixture into Bundt pan and bake for 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Remove cake from oven and run a knife around the outside edge and around the center tube of the Bundt pan to loosen. Invert the cake immediately to keep it from sticking. The cake will shrink a little. The white chocolate morsels will sink to the bottom forming a crust on top of cake.

Serve plain or with strawberries.

Recipe courtesy of Susie Willis, Morganton, a member of Rutherford EMC

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Sea-Salted Caramel Delights

- 1 cup prepared caramel topping (like Smucker's Hot Caramel)
- 2 sleeves buttery round crackers
- 1 (16-ounce) package chocolate-flavored candy coating, melted
- 1 tablespoon sea salt

Spoon ½ teaspoon caramel on one cracker; top with another cracker. Using two forks, dip into candy coating to cover completely. Place on a piece of wax paper; sprinkle with sea salt.

Repeat with remaining crackers, caramel, and salt. Let stand 1 hour. Store in an airtight container up to 1 week.

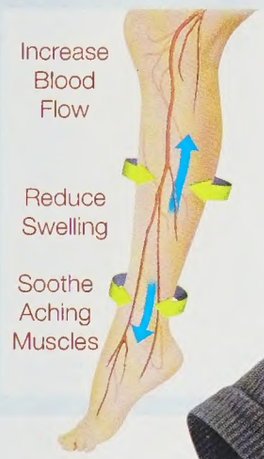
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